NOTICE.

The following sketch of the Life of William Whittingham, Dean of Durham, is from a MS., formerly in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, marked Wood MSS. No. 8650, E. 4, Art. 5, now in the Bodleian, marked Wood, E. 64, Art. 5. It is in the handwriting of Anthony Wood, in a volume of biographies collected by him for his *Athenæ Oxonienses.* It is evidently a copy of an earlier MS. because the marginal notes (see p. 1, note 1, p. 2, note 1, and p. 7, note 3), are in the same hand as the rest of the MS., and yet not written by the author of the Life.

The only clue to the authorship is that the writer was in 1576 a student at the Temple ; that he frequented Court ; and that he had access—then rarely granted to men in an unofficial position—to the State Papers of the period. We may therefore presume that he was secretary or under-secretary to Lord Burghley, or his son Sir Robert Cecil, probably the latter, since the most probable date of the Life is 1603, just after the accession of James I. The manner in which the writer speaks of Queen Elizabeth (p. 10) shows that it cannot have been written during her life, and yet it seems likely that it was written before the Hampton Court religious controversy of January, 1604, or else this controversy would probably have been alluded to. An expression on p. 36 also, speaking of the transactions recorded as happening " so long

since," indicates a considerable lapse of time after Whittingham's death in 1579.

In the annotations, &c. of the MS., I am indebted for valuable assistance to the Rev. Alfred Hackman of Oxford, who has also kindly collated the proofs with the MS.; to the Rev. Canon Raine of York; and also to the Rev. Dr. Farrar, of Durham, for ecclesiastical as well as local information.

M. A. E. G.

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